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CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 5454

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Water Utility Code; amending criteria for adjustment to water bills for water leakage, authorizing the Utilities Director to develop and update procedures pertaining to water leakage water bill adjustments, authorizing such adjustments to apply to sewer billings and amending Section 3 of Ordinance No. 2920.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 3 of Ordinance No. 2920 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- (b) ADJUSTMENT FOR LEAKAGE: The Utilities Director, or an officially delegated representative, may make an adjustment reducing the water bill of a customer when:
- (1) A written statement or complaint is filed with the City pointing out the existence of allegedly excessive water bill and water consumption for the premises; and
 - (2) The Utilities Director or an officially delegated representative determines that the excessive bill is due to leakage in a buried domestic and/or fire water service line and that the amount of the bill is at least \$10.00 over the charge for the same period of time the preceding year. Irrigation systems are specifically excluded from any adjustments due to leakage. In newly developed property which does not have a prior service record, the appropriate water service charge will be based upon the charges for a similar type of water service and occupancy for the preceding year.

Under these circumstances, the City may charge the customer the regular rate for the amount of water used during the corresponding period of the preceding year, plus an adjusted rate for the additional water usage due to leakage. The adjusted rate will be set administratively and revised periodically, consistent with Utilities financial policies.

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- (c) When the Utilities Director, or an officially delegated representative, makes an adjustment reducing the water bill of a customer due to a break in a buried water service line, a commensurate reduction to the customer's sewer bill may also be made.

Section 2. The Utilities Director is authorized to implement departmental procedures consistent with these provisions.

Section 3. This ordinance shall be in effect and be in force five days after passage and legal publication.

Passed by the City Council this 7th day of July, 2003, and signed in authentication of its passage this 7th day of July, 2003.

(SEAL)

Connie B. Marshall
Connie B. Marshall, Mayor

Approved as to form:

Patrice Cole
Patrice Cole, Assistant City Attorney

Attest:

Myrna L. Basich
Myrna L. Basich, City Clerk

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